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**LEYBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

1953.

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# LEYBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1953

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the following report on the public health services of the Rural District Council for the year 1953.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS.

## Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health:

W. Sharpe, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.

W. Sutton. M. S. T. A.

County Nursing Staff operating in district.

Miss K. E. Munford, Leyburn.  
Miss M. J. Fairburn, Redmire.  
Mrs. J.G. McFarlane, Middleham.  
Mrs. D. Smith. Crakehall.

## AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The facilities provided by the County Council consist of ambulance stations at Northallerton and Bainbridge and Hospital car service vehicles which are located at Leyburn and Middleham.

## LABORATORY SERVICE.

Public Health Laboratory, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

## GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 63,613
Population (estimated mid-year) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 6,462
Inhabited houses. ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1868
Rateable value ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... £30261.
Product of 1d Rate ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... £120

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males.	Females.	Total	Local & Wales.	Rates/1000 Home Pop: England
LIVE BIRTHS.					
Legitimate.	51	50	101	16.4	15.5
Illegitimate.	3	2	5		
STILL BIRTHS.					
Legitimate.	2	2	4		
Illegitimate.	0	0	0	36.4	22.4
DEATHS.					
All causes.	40	42	82	12.7	11.4
Maternal causes.	-	0	0	0.0*	0.76*
Enteritis and diarrhoea under two years.	0	0	0	0+	1.1+

\* Rates per 1000 Total (Live & Still Births).

\* Rates per 1000 Live Births.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age. Local England  
& Wales

All infants per 1000 live births	85.0	26.8
Legitimate infants per 1000		
legitimate live births.	69.3	-
Illegitimate infants per 1000		
illegitimate live births.	400.0	-

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

POPULATION TREND.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Mid-Year population	6462	6430	6465	6429	6390	6413
Birth rate.	16.4	16.8	17.2	17.2	17.7	16.5
Death rate.	12.7	10.6	12.1	10.3	11.3	10.6

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	Males	Females	Total	Rates per 1000 Home Pop:	
				Local	England & Wales
All Causes.	40	42	82	12.7	11.4
Tuberculosis.	0	0	0	0	0.20
Infective & Parasitic diseases.	1	0	1	0.15	0
Cancer.	8	4	12	1.86	0
Cardio vascular.	17	22	39	6.04	0
Pneumonia.	0	2	2	0.31	0.55
Other respiratory diseases.	1	1	2	0.31	0
Digestive diseases.	2	1	3	0.46	0
Nephritis & Nephrosis	0	3	3	0.46	0
Congenital Malformations.	3	1	4	0.62	0
Other defined & Ill-defined diseases	6	8	14	2.17	0
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	0	1	0.15	0
Other accidents.	1	0	1	0.15	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases notified.	Males	Females	Total	Rates per/1000 Home Pop:	
				Local	England & Wales
Typhoid fever	0	0	0	0	0.00
Paratyphoid fever.	0	0	0	0	0.01
Meningococcal infection.	0	0	0	0	0.03
Scarlet fever.	7	2	9	1.39	1.39
Whooping cough.	6	8	14	2.17	3.58
Diphtheria.	0	0	0	0	0.01
Erysipelas.	0	1	1	0.15	0.14
Smallpox.	0	0	0	0	0.00
Measles.	32	29	61	9.44	12.36
Pneumonia.	5	3	8	1.24	0.84
Acute Poliomyelitis (Including Polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	2	0	2	0.31	0.07
Non-paralytic	0	0	0	0	0.04
Food poisoning.	0	1	1	0.15	0.24
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0*	18.23*

\* Rates per 1000 Total (Live & Still) Births

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Group.	Pulmonary	New Cases.		Deaths.	
		Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
0-4	0	0	0	0	0
5-15	1	0	0	0	0
15 plus.	1	1	0	0	0
	2	1	0	0	0

There were 27 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the register at the 31st. December 1953. This gives a ratio of 4.49 cases of Tuberculosis per 1000 population, as compared with 4.83 in 1952.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act: which deals with the compulsory removal to a place of safety of persons in need of care and attention.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of all infectious diseases in the district remained low throughout the year. There were two sporadic cases of Poliomyelitis, both of which occurred in a remote part of the district, but no direct connection between the cases could be found.

I must again emphasise that the level of immunisation against diphtheria in the pre-school age group is too low, only 51% having been adequately protected against this serious disease. Every effort should be made to encourage parents with young children to have this simple procedure carried out. The minimum safety level is approximately 75% immunised, and until this is achieved and maintained there will always be the danger of a return of this dreaded disease. I am also rather worried by the small number of infants that are being protected against smallpox. Only 36% of the children born during the year were vaccinated. I should therefore again like to emphasise the necessity of having this safe and simple procedure carried out in early infancy where reactions are likely to be minimal.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

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### WATER SUPPLIES.

Although there has been a great improvement in the water supplies in the district during the past few years, there are still a number of villages where the supply is untreated and subject to contamination and is consequently a threat to the health of the community. These supplies have been mentioned in previous reports and are chiefly private undertakings supplying the villages of Carlton, Redmire, Castle Bolton and Melmerby.

The work undertaken to improve the supply to the village of Bellerby has improved the quantity, but since it is still untreated and is derived from the same source as previously, there has been very little improvement in the quality.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No further work has been undertaken during the year on sewerage and sewerage disposal plants. The following villages are in urgent need of improved sewage disposal facilities in order to abate the existing nuisances with its attendant risk to health :- Carlton, Finghall, Constable Burton, Castle Bolton, Redmire, Hauxwell.

### REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The collection of household refuse in the district continues to be satisfactory, but there has been no improvement in the tipping facilities available. As mentioned in previous reports a new tipping site is urgently required.

## CAMP SITES.

There are no camp sites in the area.

## ICE CREAM.

There are no ice cream manufacturers in the district but there are 17 registered dealers as follows:-

Leyburn.	...	...	...	...	7
Middleham.	...	...	...	...	4
Bellerby.	...	...	...	...	1
Harmby.	...	...	...	...	1
Hunton.	...	...	...	...	1
Redmire.	...	...	...	...	1
East Witton.	...	...	...	...	1
West Witton.	...	...	...	...	1

## MEAT and FOOD.

Centralised slaughtering has continued throughout the year at the Abattoir leased to the Ministry of Food at Leyburn. I have commented in previous reports on the unsuitability of these premises, due chiefly to their proximity to habitable dwellings. It is hoped that when the Government scheme for centralised slaughtering is introduced, it will no longer be necessary for this abattoir to be in use.

## HOUSING.

In spite of the fact that there is a considerable number of unfit houses which are still inhabited, no action has been taken during the year to improve the position. I would again strongly urge the Council to make a start on the demolition of slum property which is prejudicial to health.

The tables appended show the work carried out during the year by the Sanitary Department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Wm. Sharpe.

Thornborough Hall,  
Leyburn.

Medical Officer of Health.

July 1954.

APPENDIX.

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A total of 973 inspections were made during the year and analysis of these is given below:-

	Inspect ions	Informal Notices.	Not complied with	Statutory Notices.	Not complied with
Council's works.	386	-	-	-	-
Housing.	264	-	-	-	-
Slaughterhouse.	187	-	-	-	-
Dairies.	27	-	-	-	-
Public Health Acts.	109	-	-	-	-
 Total -	973	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT. 1937.

	Powered, non- powered.	Number on Register	Inspect ions.	Number of written Notices.	Occupiers prose- cuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	20	20	33	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies.	52	52	2	-	-
Total	72	72	35	-	-

## TRADES.

Builders	...	...	...	...	...	10
Plumbers.	...	...	...	...	...	8
Joiners.	...	...	...	...	...	11
Electricians.	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bakers.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Motor Repair Shops.	...	...	...	...	...	8
Milk Receiving Depots.						2
Blacksmiths.	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cheese Factory.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sawmills.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sand and Gravel	...	...	...	...	...	1
Saddler.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Quarries.	...	...	...	...	...	7
Printers.	...	...	...	...	...	2
Boot and Shoe Repairers.	...	...	...	...	...	6

72

## HOUSING AND NEW BUILDINGS.

The tables below gives details of houses under construction and those completed since 1945 in the respective parishes:-

By Private Enterprise.

Parish	Completed	Under construction at end of year
Coverham.	6	-
Finghall.	1	-
Harmby.	1	1
Hornby.	3	-
Hunton.	2	-
Leyburn.	26	1
Middleham.	2	-
Newton-le-Willows.	1	2
Patrick Brompton.	1	-
Preston.	1	-
Thornton Steward.	1	-
Wensley.	1	-
West Witton.	1	-
Total	47	4

By Leyburn Rural District Council.

Parish	Completed.	Under construction at end of year.
Arrathorne.	4	-
Bellerby.	10	-
Constable Burton.	10	-
East Witton.	4	-
Finghall.	8	-
Harmby.	6	-
Hunton.	14	-
Leyburn.	72	3
Middleham.	32	12
Newton-le-Willows.	4	-
Patrick Brompton.	2	-
Preston.	3	-
Redmire.	6	-
Spennithorne.	14	-
Thornton Steward.	4	-
Wensley.	4	-
West Witton.	8	-
 Total	205	15

BUILDING LICENCES.

The following table gives details of work licensed during the year 1953.

	No.	Values.
New dwellings.	6	£10238
Repairs and adaptations.	7	£8595
 Total	13	£18833

PLANS

57 Plans were considered during the year. Details are shown in the table.

	New buildings.	Alterations to dwellings.	Garages & sheds.	Cow sheds & dairies	Other buildings	Total
Akebar	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bellerby.	-	-	1	-	2	3
Carlton.	-	-	-	-	2	2
Coverham.	-	1	-	-	1	1
Constable Burton.	-	-	1	-	1	1
Finghall.	-	1	1	-	1	1
Harmby.	2	2	-	-	1	4
Hutton Hang.	-	2	-	-	1	3
Hunton.	-	1	1	-	1	3
Hornby.	1	-	-	-	1	2
Leyburn.	5	1	2	-	1	1
Middleham.	1	1	-	-	3	6
Melmerby.	-	-	-	-	1	1
Newton-le-Willows.	2	-	-	-	1	1
Patrick Brompton.	-	1	-	-	2	2
Redmire.	1	-	-	-	1	1
Spennithorne.	-	-	-	-	1	1
Thornton Steward.	-	3	-	-	1	2
Wensley.	-	1	-	-	1	1
West Witton.	-	1	-	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>57</b>

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Sample No.	Date of sampling.	Address.	Summary of Analyst's Report.
203	12/1/53	Constable - Tap in school	Satisfactory.
204	12/1/53	Leyburn. - Cranehow supply.	Satisfactory.
205	21/1/53	Thornton Steward - Tap in School	Satisfactory.
206	21/1/53	Newton-le-Willows (Tap in school)	Satisfactory.
207	22/1/53	West Witton - Tap in school.	Satisfactory.
208	3/2/53	East Witton - Tap in school.	Satisfactory.

Sample No.	Date of sampling.	Address.	Summary of Analyst's Report.
209	4/2/53	Redmire- tap in village.	Satisfactory.
210	4/2/53	Wensley- tap in school.	Satisfactory.
211	4/2/53	Spennithorne- tap in school.	Satisfactory.
212	23/2/53	Carlton - tap in school.	Suspicious.
214	5/5/53	Leyburn.- tap in school.	Satisfactory.
215	8/6/53	Middleham.tap in school.	Unsatisfactory.
216	11/6/53	Carlton.- tap in school.	Unsatisfactory.
217	28/4/53	Preston Moor- Smelt Mill.	Satisfactory.
218	30/4/53	Barden Moor.	Unsatisfactory.
219	5/5/53	Constable Burton- tap in school.	Satisfactory.
220	11/6/53	Redmire. -tap in school.	Unsatisfactory.
221	26/6/53	Middleham.-inlet to reservoir.	Unsatisfactory.
221a	8/7/53	Middleham. house tap in Park Lane.	Unsatisfactory.
222	8/7/53	Redmire- tap in village.	Suspicious.
223	21/9/53	Constable Burton -tap in school.	Satisfactory.
224	21/9/53	Hunton. - tap in school.	Satisfactory.
225	23/9/53	Bellerby.- tap in school.	Suspicious.
226	30/9/53	Leyburn, -tap in school.	Satisfactory.
227	30/9/53	Thornton Steward.-tap in school.	Satisfactory.
228	30/9/53	Hauxwell - tap in school.	Unsatisfactory.
229	26/10/53	Thornton Steward. -tap in school.	Satisfactory.
230	3/11/53	Middleham.-tap in school.	Unsatisfactory.
231	17/11/53	Redmire - tap in school.	Satisfactory.
232	16/12/53	Newton-le-Willows. tap in school.	Satisfactory.
233	16/12/53	Spennithorne. -tap in school.	Satisfactory.
234	16/12/53	Hauxwell - tap in school.	Satisfactory.
235	16/12/55	Hunton. - tap in school.	Satisfactory.
236	22/12/53	West Witton -Chantry(private supply)	Unsatisfactory.
237	22/12/53	Carlton - tap in school.	Grossly contaminated.

#### CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER.

213	29/4/53	Preston Moor - Smelt Mill.	Satisfactory.
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MEAT INSPECTIONS.

	Graded Animals.	Casualty Animals.
Cattle.      ...      ...      ...	445	113
Calves.      ...      ...      ...	5	48
Sheep.      ...      ...      ...	1927	107
Pigs.      ...      ...      ...	460	60

Total weight of meat and offal condemned - 9 tons. 19 cwts. 3 qrs:  
 Total weight affected with tuberculosis. - 1 ton 8 cwts. 2 qrs.

Details of carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Number killed.      ...      ...	558	53	2034	520
Number inspected.      ...      ...	558	53	2034	520
All diseases except tuberculosis:-				
Whole carcases condemned.      ...	26	17	44	14
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	203	6	46	15
Percentage of number inspected with diseases other than T.B.	41.04%	43.3%	4.42%	5.5%
Tuberculosis only :-				
Whole carcases condemned.	8	-	-	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	49	-	-	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	10.21%	-	-	3.8%







